

**Derby City Council Adults and Health Scrutiny Review Board**

**Derby City Council House**

**Tuesday 3rd October**

Item: TBC
-----------

<b>Report Title</b>	Derbyshire Post (Long) COVID Syndrome Service Review							
<b>Author</b>	Scott Webster, Head of Strategic Clinical Conditions and Pathways							
<b>Sponsor (Executive Director)</b>	Dr Chris Weiner, Chief Medical Officer							
<b>Presenter</b>	Dr Chris Weiner, Chief Medical Officer							
<b>Paper purpose</b>	Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 2: Case for Change Summary Version Appendix 3: Engagement Plan							

**Recommendations**

The Derby City Council Health Overview Committee are recommended to **NOTE** the Derbyshire Post (Long) COVID Syndrome Service review paper.

**Purpose**

The paper is presented for assurance, to evidence that the ICB and service providers have sought to engage on the development of a future service model.

**Background**

**1.0 Overview of Service**

The Derbyshire Post COVID Syndrome Assessment Clinic was launched in December 2020 to provide physical, cognitive, and psychological assessments to patients experiencing complex post COVID syndrome (Long COVID) symptoms. In April 2022, the service was expanded to include rehabilitation hubs in the north and south of the county to manage patient symptoms. The rehabilitation offer includes support for Breathlessness, Chronic Fatigue, Occupational Health, Vocational and Health Psychology.

The Post (Long) Covid Service is provided by:

- Derbyshire Community Health Services (DCHS): lead on the assessment clinic and provide psychology and co-ordinator staffing within the rehabilitation hubs.
- University Hospitals of Derby and Burton (UHDB): lead on the south rehabilitation hub. Staffing includes occupational, physio, pulmonary rehabilitation, and chronic fatigue therapists.

- Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CRH): lead on the north rehabilitation hub. Staffing includes occupational, physio, pulmonary rehabilitation, and chronic fatigue therapists.

Since 2020/21 NHS England (NHSE) have provided annual non-recurrent funding to all Integrated Care Boards (ICB) to implement Post (Long) Covid Services.

From January 2022 to February 2023 referrals into the service have averaged at 20 referrals per week and peaked at 60 referrals per week in June 2022. However, from December 2022 onwards there has been a downward trend in referrals to approximately 12 referrals per week. This fall in referrals is in line with national trends.

## Report Summary

### 2.0 Case for Change

A case for change document (summary version) has been developed and is attached in **Appendix 2**. The document describes the current and future needs of the local population, the provision of local services and the key challenges facing the health and care system. It provides the platform for change.

### 2.1 Key Challenges

The key challenges identified within the case for change include:

- Referrals: Since December 2022 there has been a downward trend in referrals from 20 per week to 12 per week. This is in line with national trends.
- 24/25 Funding: The ICB have been notified by NHSE that funding will be significantly reduced in 2024/25 due to the reduction in referrals across the Midlands region. This brings into question the financial sustainability of the service.
- Workforce recruitment and retention: Service staff are aware of the demand and financial challenges faced by the service for 2024/25. There is a risk that staff will start to look for alternative employment, destabilising the service in-year.
- Discharges and Patient Initiated Follow-up: There were approximately 1000 patients on the service caseload in April 2023 and this figure has been steadily increasing monthly since December 2022. There is a risk that this caseload will carry over into 2024/25 impacting the efficiency and effectiveness of future service models.

### 2.2 Service Opportunities

The ICB has requested that an options appraisal and business case is developed to recommend a future service model for 2024/25. The options are required to consider and mitigate the key challenges identified. The aim is to gain approval on the recommended service model by November 2023, allowing five months to implement the service changes by March 2024.

A monthly Operational Delivery Group is chaired by the ICB, to support service delivery, embed NHSE guidance and review performance. The membership of this group includes service providers and patient representatives. Due to the key challenges identified, the group have started to consider and discuss future service model opportunities.

The initial service opportunities include:

1. *Decommission Post Covid Service (signpost patients to [www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk](http://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk) and existing services).*
2. *Enhance existing services to accommodate long covid patients.*
3. *Provide a nominal service based on the current model and review how this would look with reduced staffing and funding.*
4. *Develop a service that maintains the integrated and holistic approach that has been embedded in the service and additionally considers the opportunity to reduce service health inequity.*

A formal options appraisal process will not commence until a pre-engagement exercise is complete.

### **3.0 Engagement Plan**

The Engagement Plan is attached in **Appendix 3**.

Throughout the month of September 2023, there will be engagement activities taking place across the city and county. The key areas that are being engaged on include:

- People's knowledge of long covid and the Derbyshire Post (Long) Covid Service?
- Peoples experiences of the current service - what works well and what could be improved?
- What is important to people in the future service?

The methods of engagement include a survey and five workshops. The workshops will include two virtual (on-line) workshops at different times of the day, and three face to face workshops across the north and south of the county.

- The engagement programme will be included on the Integrated Care System Engagement Platform (<https://derbyshireinvolvement.co.uk/>) which will be available to access on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.
- The workshop events will be launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, so people are able to sign up for the events.
- The survey will be launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September.

Following this engagement there will be a pre-engagement report completed to support the options development and appraisal process. The Research & Implementation Officer will also contribute a paper to the report to identify what are the key barriers for people accessing the service.